



The Facts About Funding for the Fight Against Ebola

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With the United States and the entire world facing a global health threat, the last thing anybody has time for is political opportunism. But as [The Washington Post](#) has noted, that hasn't stopped a few from attempting to distort the facts about government funding in a shallow attempt to gain a political edge. Contrary to political claims being made by some, the Republican-led House of Representatives has acted decisively and consistently when it comes to efforts to combat the deadly disease, even providing more funding than requested for the agencies on the front lines of the fight against Ebola. Here are the facts:

- **Congress Has Released Up to \$750 Million in Funding to Combat Ebola.** The House last week [released up to \\$750 million](#) to support [Operation United Assistance](#), the mission "[to provide medical, logistical and security support](#)" to combat Ebola in West Africa.
- **Congress Provided More CDC Funding Than the President Requested Last Year.** The FY 2014 budget agreement reached in January of this year provided the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC] "an 8.2 percent budget increase for fiscal 2014," The [Atlanta Business Chronicle](#) reported at that time. "This is more than the agency anticipated, [because the president's fiscal year 2014 budget request for it was just \\$6.6 billion -- a decrease of \\$270 million from fiscal 2012](#)," the *Chronicle* adds. Even [The Huffington Post](#) admits "President Barack Obama hasn't been consistent on funding the [CDC], the dominant U.S. public health agency combating the outbreak," and "indeed explicitly posed significant cuts at times."
- **The White House Proposed the Sequester.** This [isn't the first time](#) the White House has tried to shirk responsibility for the sequester it proposed, and the president signed into law, in 2011. But as [Politico](#) reported back in 2012, "the book 'The Price of Politics,' by *Washington Post* Associate Editor Bob Woodward, [makes it clear the idea for the draconian spending cuts originated in the White House – and not in Congress.](#)" In fact, Congress's 2014 budget agreement [restored \\$1 billion worth of National Institutes of Health \[NIH\] cuts](#) made under the president's sequester. In addition, "It's worth noting that [President Obama's 2015 budget request did not call for a major increase in funding for the NIH](#)," [The Washington Post](#) reports.

"**On many levels, this line of attack is absurd,**" says [Washington Post](#) fact checker Glenn Kessler, who rated the claim a "whopper." Instead of trying to point the finger, "the administration must be able to assure Americans that we will stop the spread here at home," [Speaker Boehner](#) said yesterday. "We will continue to press the administration for better information about what steps will be taken to protect the American people, including our troops, from this deadly virus. And we will work with the administration on appropriate policy options that will help stop the spread of this horrific disease both here in the United States and around the globe."